

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2961

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, GE

SUBJECT: FURTHER EXFILTRATION TRIALS IN GDR

REF: BERLIN 74

1. REVERTING TO ITS PRACTICE OF LAST FALL, GDR BEGAN IN MID-JANUARY AGAIN TO PUBLICIZE SENTENCES METED OUT IN EXFILTRATION CASES. IN ALMOST DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS SINCE JANUARY 17, GDR PRESS THUS FAR HAS REPORTED SENTENCING OF 14 PERSONS (NINE WEST BERLIN AND FIVE FRG RESIDENTS) ON CHARGES OF "CRIMINAL TRADE IN HUMAN BEINGS" AND MISUSE OF TRANSIT AGREEMENT ON "INTERNATIONAL TRANSIT ROUTES." SENTENCES VERY STIFF, RANGING FROM FIVE TO 15 YEARS. IN FIRST KNOWN CASE INVOLVING A WOMAN, A WEST BERLIN HUSBAND-WIFE COUPLE RECEIVED PRISON TERMS OF SEVEN AND EIGHT YEARS RESPECTIVELY.

2. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH GDR ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUE TO FOCUS ON EXFILTRATORS AND REMAIN SILENT ABOUT FATE OF

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WOULD-BE ESCAPEES, THEY NEVERTHELESS CONSTITUTE

IMPLICIT ADMISSION THAT SOME GDR CITIZENS ARE STILL
TRYING TO ESCAPE EVEN AT RISK OF SEVERE PUNISHMENT.
SUCH ADMISSION PROBABLY PAINFUL TO GDR, BUT REGIME'S
DETERMINATION FURTHER TO INTIMIDATE POTENTIAL DEFECTORS
AND THEIR HELPERS CLEARLY OUTWEIGHTS OTHER CONSIDERATIONS.
KLEIN

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